

4,000 NEW AND PNEUMONIA CASES IN CITY

Death Rate From Diseases Continues Low, Total Being Only 169.

JUMP IS EXPECTED TO-DAY

No Smoking Rule in Theatres and Other Precautions Put Into Effect.

More than 4,000 cases of influenza and pneumonia were reported yesterday in New York city. On the corresponding day of the 1918 epidemic there were fewer than 3,000 new cases, but the death rate on that day nearly doubled yesterday's record, the totals being 169, against 323.

The low death rate is the significant thing about the Health Department's figures, Commissioner Copeland said. There is no question that the "flu" this year is a much milder type of disease. Its duration when uncomplicated by pneumonia is about seven days; a year ago the average duration was ten days. "There isn't the distress in the community that there was during the last epidemic," Dr. Copeland said. "In the first place, we have twice as many doctors; about half our doctors were in service in 1918. The army had taken over many of our hospitals, all of which were full of soldiers and sailors. The increase in the number of cases yesterday was expected. Many were held over from Sunday, but there will be a continuous daily advance until the peak of the epidemic is reached. Tomorrow I expect more than 4,000 more. "The only thing we are worrying about now is the nurse situation," the Commissioner continued. "It is improving and there has been a splendid response to-day, but we are still about fifty nurses short all the time."

Six Dollars a Day for Nurses.

"We will take nurses on our pay roll at once at \$6 a day and if they come from out of town we will provide them with quarters and meals when they are of duty. When nurses are sent to families that are able to pay they may make their own arrangements as regards compensation."

A family of seven was taken to the Lincoln Hospital in The Bronx last night, all suffering from influenza. Jeremiah Moore, a clerk, of 321 Crimmins avenue, his wife and five children all contracted the disease at once. The father was barely able to call a policeman before he collapsed.

Dr. Israel Kassinov, who has been treating influenza cases at Fordham Hospital, became a victim last night. It was said he was doing well.

Dr. Copeland said a conference with S. A. Lewishohn of the Mayor's rent profiteering committee. Reports have been received of the eviction of influenza victims and the committee will take every moral and legal step to prevent such practices as a "crime against society."

David Zipkin, owner of the tenement at 1725 Amsterdam avenue, was fined \$118 yesterday for refusing to furnish heat. The Health Department got the evidence against him and while the influenza plague continues will keep after all violators of the heat regulations. Health inspectors are also visiting the moving picture theatres and enforcing the sanitary requirements.

Beginning to-day, all smoking in theatres will be stopped by the Board of Health. This rule affects patrons of the Hippodrome, Winter Garden, all the vaudeville houses and about half the movie theatres.

The crusade against spitting is in full swing. Every policeman has been ordered to arrest any person he sees spitting on the street. Several were arrested and fined yesterday.

Fake "Disinfectors" at Work.

Reports reached the Health Department that men are going about the city claiming to be "disinfectors" of the department and soliciting the job of infecting and fumigating rooms that have been occupied by influenza patients.

All such are frauds, Commissioner Copeland said. "We do not disinfect houses any more. It has been proved that disinfection is unnecessary."

In the Commissioner's mail was a letter from the manager of a large hotel complaining that some doctors when there is insufficient heat in the home of a patient and no hospital space available order the patients to a hotel. He received letters also from small druggists, who objected to a recent announcement that certain chain drug stores only are selling whiskey on prescription. It appears that virtually all the drug stores, large and small, have taken out liquor licenses.

The new rule for store and office hours went into effect yesterday under unfortunate conditions. A rainstorm in a temperature of 22 degrees at 2 A. M. coated the rails with ice and caused the worst bad weather thump in the recent history of the elevated railway. Almost everybody was late getting to work and the trains were, if possible, more crowded than usual. Dr. Copeland said he believed the system would be working smoothly by to-morrow or the next day. It took several days to put it into operation at the time of the last epidemic.

The schools do not show much falling off in attendance. Commissioner Copeland wrote to Dr. William L. Eitner, City Superintendent of Schools, outlining health precautions for the school children yesterday.

Precautions for Schools.

These are his suggestions: 1. Children arriving at school in the morning must not be allowed to congregate in the playgrounds or corridors.

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Posam is persistently itself when its healing powers are directed against Eczema or any stubborn skin trouble. Its continued use brings unmistakable improvement. It cures itching, burning, itching and burning no longer harass you. You can safely and confidently leave all your skin troubles to Posam. It cures rashes, scab, eczema, abrasions, chafes, inflammation, any itching defect.

Sold everywhere. For free sample write to: Emergency Laboratories, 243 West 47th St., New York City.

Posam Soap is the tonic soap for the skin and will freshen and beautify your complexion.

TRAFFIC IN SNARL AS ICE BLANKETS CITY

"I" Trains Stalled Several Hours in Early Rush—Bridges Impassable.

BOY IS SHOVED TO DEATH

Third Rail Circuits Start Many Fires as Police Reserves Curb Throngs.

Until sunshine and a flow of warm air produced an old time January thaw New York was blanketed with ice yesterday morning. One of the results was a complete suspension of travel on the elevated roads for several hours. This threw an added burden on the subway, the Long Island Railroad and the irregularly running surface cars, effecting such congestion that every station and terminal had a mob scene of its own and uncountable thousands of persons were late in reaching their work.

East River bridges were impassable. Horses fell, trucks skidded, traffic was in a fearful tangle. Mayor Hylan got into one of these snarls on the Williamsburg Bridge and was held up an hour and ten minutes. In East New York a boy was edged off an overcrowded railway station and killed by a train. Hospital ambulances skated to and fro, picking up men and women who had slipped and fallen and broken bones. Such elevated trains as tried to run were enveloped in blue smoke from the third rail. Elevated structure and cars caught fire in half a dozen places, which provided mean jobs for the firemen. The crust of ice began forming when a sleet storm started. At 2 A. M. cold rain set in and froze as soon as it touched the snowy ground and made it this part of the East one vast skating rink. It was 10 o'clock before rapid transit was back to normal.

The elevated lines were worst hampered because the intervals between trains are so long in the early morning that ice had time to encase the rails. It was a perilous journey across the ice to an elevated station and one made it to find that trains were not running. Or when a train did get a start it stopped with a groan when it tried to ascend the slope of the East River bridge.

The boy who lost his life was Bernard Rafkin, 15 years old, of 99 Christopher avenue, Brooklyn. He was waiting for a Long Island Railroad train at the Manhattan avenue crossing in East New York. There, as at other Long Island stations, the station was jammed with travelers because the H. R. T. lines were blocked. Rafkin toppled off the platform just as a train pulled in. A fire company had to jack up the last car to get his body out. A man in soldier's uniform was jostled off the platform by the crowd, but crawled to safety beneath the train and out on the other side. Then police reserves had to be called to restore order. Other trains behind this one were held up an hour. Rafkin was identified by working papers in his pocket, which also contained two theatre tickets for Saturday evening.

In Manhattan the first of a series of fires caused by third rail short circuits started at 2:40 A. M. on the Ninth avenue elevated. Later a gas pipe at the Hanover Square station of the Second Avenue line was broken by the convulsions of a train in its effort to get started, and presently a large gas flare was added to the spectacular spoutings of the third rail. Ice also had a good deal to do with the progress of a fire made in a seven-story loft building at 240 East Twenty-third street, near the Chelsea Hotel. Apparatus had a hard time getting there and coupling the hose was also difficult. Several clothing factories

1,800 NEW INFLUENZA CASES IN CHICAGO

91 Die, Making Highest Rate Since 1918 Seige.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Influenza's grip on the city tightened again to-day, when the health office reports showed 1,800 new cases, with 91 deaths, as against 1,058 cases yesterday and 69 deaths. Pneumonia too showed an increase, 399 new cases being reported, with a total of 82 deaths, as against 250 new cases yesterday, with 63 deaths.

"To-day's death rate is the highest since 1918's siege of the influenza," said Deputy Health Commissioner Koehler. The statistics compiled by the Health Department show that the years between 20 and 40 are the "dangerous age" for adults so far as their susceptibility to "pneumonia" is concerned. Children under 10 are the most susceptible, while those from 10 to 20 are virtually immune.

Thirteen thousand eight hundred women trained as nurses and sick room attendants by local chapters of the Red Cross during the war were called upon to-day to aid in the fight against influenza by Dr. A. Augustus O'Neill, medical director of the local Red Cross chapter. The number of influenza cases in central and southern Illinois is increasing steadily but slowly, according to a telegram sent to the United States Public Health Service to-day by Dr. C. St. Clair Drake, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Has Only 2,000 Men.

Denaro, Marrone and Simmonelli, the snow contractors, are in an even worse predicament than the Commissioner for men. While the snow contractors should have a force of 14,000 men to handle the situation they have been able to muster only 2,000 men, Commissioner MacStay said. That is despite the fact that since January 21 the contractors have raised their wage offers from 50 cents an hour to 75 cents and in cases as high as \$1 an hour.

In order to get the snow off the streets before further rain creates more slush Commissioner MacStay put every available man on the flushing ganga yesterday and began washing the ice off the pavement. The flushing ganga, he said, will work continually until the thermometer drops to 34 degrees, below which the water from the hose would freeze on the streets and serve to make conditions worse. The regular street cleaning force, he said, has been working until 8 o'clock at night when the weather permitted, and will be kept on at high powered a schedule as possible.

The Commissioner has obtained some relief from the bootmen's strike by manning available tugs with policemen. He was able yesterday to get two additional tugs manned by the owners and their families. Ice, however, has handicapped the work when the tugs, Tugs Monday were unable to get closer than a quarter of a mile from the docks, and efforts to get loaded scows out of the ice on the west side were ended when the tug broke her propeller in the ice.

Shortage of Scows.

The Commissioner had only three scows available for Manhattan yesterday when he needed at least twenty. Tugs

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TO MANAGE TRACTION LINE.

Rochester Man to Operate Madison Avenue Company.

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CITY STREETS DEEP IN MUD AND SLUSH

Shortage of Men in Cleaning Department Responsible for Bad Conditions.

SCOWS ALSO ARE SCARCE

With Mild Weather Every Effort Will Be Made to Flush Away Ice.

The condition of the streets of New York city, following recent snows and cold weather, was worse yesterday than it has been in several years. The horrible mud and slush through which pedestrians and vehicular traffic have had to draw themselves are due primarily to a shortage of men in the Street Cleaning Department, according to Commissioner A. B. MacStay. The situation has been aggravated further by the strike of boat men, cooks and deckhands, which has materially cut down the number of tugs available to the department and the fact that for about a week nearly all the department's scows have been frozen in.

Commissioner MacStay stated yesterday, however, that if the moderate weather of yesterday prevailed for twenty-four more hours New York will find itself walking and riding on clean streets once more.

Despite every effort of the department to get men, said the Commissioner, the normal force still is 15,000 men short, in order to overcome that handicap advertising campaign will launch an advertising campaign in the next day or two for men, setting forth the advantages of the department's pension system, medical provisions and other inducements to men desiring permanent work.

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All Ovington place plates included in the sale

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